Punjab
Himachal Pradesh
Jammu & Kashmir .. ..
Rajasthan
Gujarat
Madhya Pradesh
Tamil Nadu
Andhra Pradesh
OFFSHORE
West Coast
East Coast

(b) It is proposed to deploy 35 offshore rigs during the next three years as per details below:—

	Owned	Charter-hired	Total
Jackup	8	19	27
Drillship	3	5	8
	11	24	35

Exploration of oil by ONGC in other countries

1332. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to explore oil in other countries in collaboration with foreign firms; and

(b) if so, what are the details in the regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) ONGC has been looking for exploration acreages abroad singly or jointly in prospective basins subject to exploration being economically viable, subject to approval of the Government of India.

Recently ONGC received offers for joint venture from IPC Dubai and BHP Australia for exploration in offshore Malaysia and offshore western Australia respectively. The offer of IPC for exploration in Malaysia offshore was not taken up as the acreage was not considered attractive.

Negotiation by IOC with a private party for office accommodation

1333. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation Limited does not have its own office building in the capital;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons which prompted the Management of IOC Limited to negotiate with a private party, *viz.*, Bharat Hotels, which is in dire financial crisis, for buying a space at an exorbitant cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above;

(c) In order to meet the office requirements of IOC's Northern Region, which could not be met from the space available with IOC then, the Company advertised in 1983 calling for offers. The offers received in response to this were evaluated based on which office space was acquired in World Trade Centre (Bharat Hotels), as their offer was found most competitive.